

VICTOR L. GORDON AND ROBERT WOODWARD.

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MAY 25, 1842.

Read, and laid upon the table.

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Mr. COWEN, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

**REPORT :**

*The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Victor L. Gordon and Robert Woodward, report :*

That the petitioners set forth that they were assistant surgeons in the navy of the United States; that, according to the law of 1828, they were entitled to an examination after five years' service, and, if passed, they would therefore be entitled to receive higher salaries than they were entitled to prior to such examination. They represent that they served six years and five months before they were examined by the board of surgeons appointed for that purpose, and ask Congress to pay them the difference between the compensation allowed to assistant surgeons and that to passed assistant surgeons for the said period of one year and five months.

The committee have examined the law referred to, and are of opinion that the increase of pay depended entirely upon the examination and passing of the officers. If they had been found deficient by the board of examiners, they would not of course receive any increase of pay. The object of the legislation appears to have been the encouragement of science. When an assistant surgeon gives satisfactory evidence of his progress in professional science before the board of examiners, he becomes entitled to an increase of pay and emoluments. Until they give such evidence, they were not entitled to such increase.

The committee are unable to discover any equitable claim on the part of the petitioners. They therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the petitioners are not entitled to relief.

